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OO RUEHQU
DE RUEHPU #1304 2591207
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 151207Z SEP 08
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8838
INFO RUEHZH/HAITI COLLECTIVE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 2055
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 0229
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 1830
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 2414
RUEHMT/AMCONSUL MONTREAL 0320
RUEHQU/AMCONSUL QUEBEC 1254
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUCOWCV/CCGDSEVEN MIAMI FL
RUMIAAA/HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 001304

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CAR, DRL, S/CRS, INR/IAA
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD
STATE PASS AID FOR LAC/CAR
TREASURY FOR MAUREEN WAFER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [HA](#)

SUBJECT: HAITI HURRICANE DEATH/DAMAGE TOLL CLIMBS

¶1. (U) Haitian Interior Minister Paul Antoine Bien Aime on September 11 released preliminary death and damage statistics from the recent series of hurricanes and tropical storms that have hit Haiti:

- 326 deaths
- 50 missing
- 186 injured
- 170,015 families affected (which he estimated as approximately 800,000 persons, nearly ten percent of Haiti's population)
- 10,842 dwellings destroyed

¶2. (U) Data from a Ministry of Agriculture preliminary report that reached the press September 12 estimates overall damage to the agricultural sector at USD 190 million. The Ministry assesses that the storms damaged 40 percent of the country's cropland, with the spring planting (June-August) on this land a total loss (septel).

¶3. (U) Prime Minister Michele Pierre-Louis in a September 11 press conference outlined preliminary Government of Haiti measures to direct emergency funds to affected areas. She stated that 51 million Haitian gourdes (USD 1,275,000) in GOH funds have been appropriated to help flood victims. Sixteen million gourdes (USD 400,000) were allocated to the Artibonite Department (the most severely affected region in Haiti; three million gourdes (USD 75,000) to the Southeast Department; 12 million gourdes (USD 300,000) for food purchases for the Nippe and Artibonite Departments; 10 million gourdes (USD 250,000) for the National Council on Equipment (CNE - the national equipment procurement agency); and a further 10 million gourdes (USD 250,000) to be distributed equally among each of the ten departments for immediate intervention by local authorities.

¶4. (U) Flanked by Minister of Finance Daniel Dorsainvil, the Prime Minister said that the government would "'mobilize'" a further 600 million gourdes (USD 15 million) within the next 15 days for disaster relief under the new state of emergency.

(Note: the state of emergency law passed September 9 allows the government to declare a state of emergency for a fifteen-day period, see septel.) The PM announced she and several ministers will visit stricken areas in Gonaives on September 13, with air transport provided by the U.S.
SANDERSON